Programme of modernisation of Rajabagan Dockyard with upgraded technology in shiprepairs and ship-building has been undertaken.

In addition, the old and obsolete fleet of the CIWTC is also being scrapped/disposed of in a phased manner to reduce the cost on their maintenance and operation.

Training of Indian Pilots under United Nations Development Programme

1813. SHRI BAIKUNTHANATH SAHU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Nations Development iProgramme (UNDP) has approved assistance towards upgrading the facilities for training of plots in India;

(b) if so, what assistance has been sought from UNDP by Government for the above purpose;

(c) what amount has been sanctioned by UNDP for the purpose ; and

(d) what are the details of the training etc. proposed to be imparted in the programme, proposed to be launched with UNDP assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The UNDP has sanctioned a project costing US $ 1,385,580. With UNDP assistance, it is proposed to establish and develop a flying standard unit, training support unit, training aids programme, advanced flying training equipment and develop specialised training material for use in advanced flight simulator training.

Congestion at Railway Stations in Delhi

1814. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the old Delhi and New Delhi Railway Stations are getting increasingly congested day by day ; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to remove congestion in these stations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At New Delhi Railway Station visitors are being persuaded not to enter the platform unless absolutely necessary and the issue of Platform tickets is also being regulated. Checks at the gates have been intensified. Study is being conducted to reduce congestion on Platforms due to stacking of parcels, etc.

A Master Plan to develop terminal facilities at other locations in Delhi area has been prepared to ease the congestion at existing stations.

Release of funds for road development i A. .

1815. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact tha the Central Government released only Rs 63.33 lakh out of the sanctioned amount of Rs. 81

lakh (Rs. 73.70 lakh sanctioned and Rs. 7.30 lakh escalation cost) for the development of roads in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh for the year 1986-87 to 1988-89 ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not releasing the balance amount of Rs. 17.67 lakh so far ; and

(c) whether Government propose to release the amount immediately in view of the urgent need for development of roads in the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) to (c) An amount of Rs. 67.56 lakhs has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh from 1986-87 to 1988-89 against the 12 road works costing Rs. 73.70 lakhs. An ad-hoc proposal requesting the revision of the cost to Rs. 81 lakhs was received from the State Government. However, the State Government was requested to furnish the revised estimates of the road works, with justifications for consideration, which are still awaited. The State Government has also been requested to furnish the completion report along with audited statement of accounts if the works have been completed for releasing the balance amount of Rs. 6.14 lakhs in one instalment during the current financial year (1989-90).

Death of an Indian national in Saudi Arabia

1816. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian national expired in Saudi Arabia under mysterious circumstances in March 1989;

(b) whether any complaint was received in the Ministry from Mrs. Molly Thomas widow of the deceased;

(c) if so, what action was taken thereon;

(d) whether any enquiry was conducted into the matter ; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) An Indian national Shri Pothan John Thomas died in Saudi Arabia of asphyxia reportedly due to suicide by hanging.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Following a request from Mrs. Molly Thomas, wife of the deceased received by our Embassy in Riyadh on 15th March, 1989, for tracing the whereabouts of her husband Shri P.J. Thomas, the Embassy contacted the appropriate authorities and ascertained that Shri Thomas had expired reportedly by committing suicide.

(d) and (e) The local police authorities have conducted the necessary enquiries over the death of Shri Thomas. Preliminary reports indicate that no foul play is suspected and death was due to suicide. Detailed police and postmortem reports are, however, awaited and the precise circumstances and reasons for death can be ascertained only after these are received.